

BRS Programmatic EIS PEER REVIEW PLAN

Title of Review:	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;">Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement</div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Influential Scientific Information</div>
Agency:	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;">USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service</div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Highly Influential Scientific Assessment</div>
Agency Contact:	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;">Office of Science, USDA-APHIS-BRS, 4700 River Road, Unit 98, Riverdale, MD 20737 USA, 301-734-7324, fax 301-734-6352, biotechquery@aphis.usda.gov</div>	
Subject of Review:	<p>APHIS has over 18 years of experience regulating the safe introduction of genetically engineered (GE) organisms. To ensure the Agency continues to achieve its regulatory goals, APHIS has undertaken a revision of its CFR Part 340 regulations to address changes that have occurred in the field of agricultural biotechnology since the Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology was established in 1986 and the Agency's regulations were finalized in 1987. On Jan. 23, 2004, APHIS published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and APHIS' own NEPA implementation rules, to better inform the rule revision process.</p> <p>Portions of the unpublished draft programmatic EIS contain scientific information that meet the criteria to qualify as "influential scientific information." Influential scientific information is defined as "scientific information the agency reasonably can determine will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions." In particular, parts of the EIS contain scientific information describing the biological and physical elements of the human environment that may be affected by the current or proposed regulations. This scientific text is the subject of the review.</p>	
Purpose of Review:	<p>This peer review will help ensure that the scientific information contained in the draft programmatic EIS appropriately presents the biological, physical and certain other elements of the human environment that may be affected by current or proposed regulations administered by APHIS BRS. The scientific information included in the draft EIS is intended as a brief summary of current knowledge. Its purpose is to provide sufficient knowledge to a non-technical audience of the kinds of impacts on the human environment that may be affected by changes in the Agency's regulations for GE organisms.</p> <p>The peer review is being initiated to ensure that the influential scientific information contained within the draft EIS meets the standards of quality required by OMB for scientific disseminations.</p>	
Type of Review:	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Panel Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers</div>	

Number of Reviewers: ☐ 3 or fewer ☐ 4 to 10 ☐ More than 10

Opportunities for Public Comment? ☐ Yes ☒ No

How:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Other:

Location of Document Being Reviewed _____.

To Comment on This Plan	To comment on this plan or send an email message regarding it, click HERE or send an email to: APHIS_Peer_Review_Agenda@aphis.usda.gov On the subject line of the message, please write: BRS Programmatic EIS: Affected Environment
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You may also send a letter in hard copy to the following address:

APHIS Peer Review Agenda
US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Policy and Program Development, Unit 120
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

